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Television

Cigaret Commercial Calms Daly's Nerves

By MARGARET McMANUS.

Most actors are nervous, very nervous. Between parts, if they spend a lot of time around the house, they usually drive their wives to the brink of madness, not knowing what to do with their time, convinced they will probably never work again.

James Daly used to be nervous. He's not anymore. He's reasonably contented puttering about his old, remodeled farm house in Suffern, N. Y., growing his roses, breeding his sheep and, now that it's close to summer, taking his 40 laps every day in his swimming pool. He is, in fact, so contented, it's almost a dangerous content and the explanation is simple—money.

For the past six years, Daly has been moonlighting in a very lucrative way. He's the commercial spokesman for a cigaret company, which adds up to about 30 days work a year, a lot of dough, and gives him the privilege of taking only acting jobs which please him. Few actors in any community can make that claim.

Daly will be seen on television in a drama which he considers worthy of people's time. "Give Us Barabbas," the original religious drama,

written by Henry Denker, televised on Palm Sunday last year on the Hallmark Hall of Fame series, will be repeated tomorrow 6 to 7:30 p.m., NBC-TV.

Big Demand

He stars as Barabbas, the criminal whose life is spared when Christ is condemned; Kim Hunter plays Mara, the woman who loves him; and Dennis King plays Pontius Pilot. George Schaefer, the producer-director, said it was decided to give the play a second showing because they received more mail commending the program than has ever been received by any other show in the 11 years the Hallmark series has appeared on television.

"I know it's corny to say, but I like a play with a message," said Daly. "I like a part with meat and substance so that the audience comes away with something to think about. These little frothy entertainments are all right if you just want to pass time, but when the curtain comes down, so what?"

James Daly made his finest success on Broadway in the role of Job in Archibald MacLeish's Pulitzer prize-winning drama, "J. B." He also co-

starred with Helen Hayes in a revival of "The Glass Menagerie," at the City Center and in 1957 he went to Berlin to act in the world premiere of Thornton Wilder's "Bernice."

On television he starred in the series, Foreign Intrigue, which was filmed on location in Paris and Stockholm and he has done all of the better television drama series, including three notably good Omnibus shows, "Henry Adams," "The Court Martial of Billy Mitchell," and the verse drama, "Lee At Gettysburg."

Native of Wisconsin

"Several times every day I decide to give up acting and open up a store some place," said Daly, "preferably back in Wisconsin where my roots are. I sincerely believe I mean this, until a good part comes along. Acting, for the sake of acting, means nothing to me at all. I like to believe in what I'm doing and if I have a part that means something, then the whole picture changes. Then I love acting and I wouldn't be doing anything else for any amount of money."

James Firman Daly, 44, was born in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., the son of Percifer Charles Daly and Dorothy Ethelbert Hogan Daly. His grandfather operated a lumber raft on the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers and his late father was in the fuel business in Wisconsin Rapids, where Daly grew up and graduated from Lincoln High School.

His mother now works for the Central Intelligence Bureau in Washington, D. C. and a brother, David, who works for the FBI, also lives in

Washington. He has two sisters, one married, living in Los Angeles, and the other, Major Mary Ellen Daly is second in command of the WAFs, in Dover, Del.

While he was a student at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, Daly said he considered several other occupations, including writing and teaching. He said he had insufficient patience for writing and he immediately decided against teaching after he took some education courses.

After he graduated from college in 1941, he enlisted as an infantryman in the United States Army, later transferred to the Army Air Forces and before World War II ended he was an ensign in the Navy, which may indicate that Daly is something of a restless spirit.

He decided to become an actor after he was discharged from service and his first Broadway job was understudy for Gary Merrill as the newspaperman in the Judy Holliday hit, "Born Yesterday." He substituted for Merrill in 40 performances of the Garson Kanin play.

Daly said he has really no preference as to whether he is working in the movies, the theater or in television.



James Daly